THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, June 1, 1801.

Sketch of the Life and Writings of Robert Burns.

THIS ingenious perſon was born in the year 1759, near the town of Ayr, in the ſouth part of Scotland. His father, William Burns, was originally a gardener, but afterwards rented a few acres of land for the ſupport of his family. His farm did not ſucceed—though, on his part, were exerciſed the greateſt induſtry and economy. After a ſeries of misfortunes the poor man died of a broken heart in the year 1784—he was beloved by thoſe who knew him for a ſtrict and undeviating integrity.

The point of light in which Robert Burns viewed the memory of his father, may be ſeen in the beautiful picture drawn in one of his poems of him and his family at their evening devotions—it concludes with theſe ſoothing lines:—

" Then kneeling down to Heaven's eternal King,
" The ſaint, the father, and the huſband prays,
" Hope ſprings exulting on triumphant wing,
" That thus they all ſhall meet in future days;
" There ever baſk in uncreated rays,
" No more to ſigh or ſhed the bitter tear,
" Together hymning their Creator's praiſe;
" In ſuch ſociety, yet ſtill more dear,
" While circling time moves round in an eternal ſphere!"

The education of our poet was very ſcanty—but the energy of his mind was diſcernible even in the earlier periods of his life. About the age of ſix or ſeven years he was committed to the care of a Mr. Murdoch, who paid his pupil every proper attention. His preceptor, lately, has given an account of this period, in a letter to a friend, out of which ſhall be taken the following paragraph.—" Robert, and his younger brother Gilbert, had been

grounded a little in Engliſh before they were put under my care. They both made a rapid progreſs in reading, and a tolerable progreſs in writing. In reading, dividing words into ſyllables by rule, ſpelling without book, parſing ſentences, &c. Robert and Gilbert were generally at the upper end of the claſs, even when ranged with boys by far their ſeniors. The books moſt commonly uſed in the ſchool were, the ſpelling-book, the New Teſtament, the Bible, Maſon's Collection of Proſe and Verſe, and Fiſher's Engliſh Grammar. They committed to memory the hymns and other poems of that collection, with uncommon facility."

Soon after, in the year 1772, Mr. Murdoch was appointed to teach the Engliſh ſchool at Ayr—hither Robert came to increaſe his knowledge, that he might have it in his power to teach his brothers and ſiſters at home. He applied, it ſeems, with intenſeneſs to his learning, and was able to read a little of Telemachus in the French language.—"But," ſays Mr. Murdoch, "now the plains of Mount Oliphant (his father's farm), began to whiten, and Robert was ſummoned to relinquiſh the pleaſing ſcenes that ſurrounded the grotto of Calypſo, and, armed with a ſickle, to ſeek glory by ſignalizing himſelf in the fields of Ceres—and ſo he did, for, although but about fifteen, I was told he performed the work of a man."

Thus Mr. Murdoch loſt his promiſing pupil, though he afterwards viſited the houſe of the father, and was thus the means of conveying incidental inſtruction. Of the old man, this reſpectable tutor ſpeaks in terms of high reſpect—his words are too remarkable to be omitted.—"I muſt not pretend to give you a deſcription of all the manly qualities, the rational and Chriſtian virtues of the venerable William Burns. Time would fail me. I ſhall only add, that he carefully practiſed every known duty, and avoided every thing that was inimical, or, in the Apoſtle's words—"Herein did he exerciſe himſelf, in living a life void of offence towards God and towards man." O for a world of men of ſuch diſpoſitions! I have often wiſhed, for the good of mankind, that it were as cuſtomary to honour and perpetuate the memory of thoſe who excel in moral rectitude, as it is to extol what are called heroic actions—then would the mauſoleum of the friend of my youth overtop and ſurpaſs moſt of the monuments I ſee in Weſtminſter Abbey." Mr. Murdoch then almoſt immediately adds, "Mr. Burns, in a ſhort time, found that he had over-rated Mount Oliphant, and that he could not rear his numerous family upon it. After being there ſome years, he removed to Lochlea, in the pariſh of Tarbolton, where, I believe, Robert wrote moſt of his poems."

So far, therefore, Mr. Murdoch, his early preceptor, leads us—we muſt now look to another quarter for further information. Robert, henceforwards, for ſome time at leaſt, laboured on the

farm

farm with uncommon induſtry; but theſe employments engroſſed not the whole of his attention. To uſe the elegant words of his biographer (Dr. Currie, of Liverpool), "while the ploughſhare, under his guidance, paſſed through the ſward, or the graſs fell under the ſweep of his ſcythe, he was humming the ſongs of his country, muſing on the deeds of ancient valour, or wrapt in the illuſions of fancy, as her inchantments roſe on his view. Happily, the Sunday is yet a ſabbath, on which man and beaſt reſt from their labours. On this day, therefore, Burns could indulge in a free intercourſe with the charms of nature. It was his delight to wander alone on the banks of the Ayr, whoſe ſtream was now immortal, and to liſten to the ſong of the backbird at the cloſe of the ſummer's day. But ſtill greater was his pleaſure, as he himſelf informs us, in walking on the ſheltered ſide of a wood in a cloudy day, and hearing the ſtorm rave among the trees; and more elevated ſtill his delight, to aſcend ſome eminence during the agitations of nature, to ſtride along its ſummit while the lightning flaſhed around him, and amidſt the howlings of the tempeſt to apoſtrophize the ſpirit of the ſtorm. Such ſituations, he declares moſt favourable to devotion—"rapt in enthuſiaſm, I ſeem to aſcend towards him who walks on the wings of the wind!"

In the year 1781 we find the ſubject of our biography at Irvine—whence he writes an excellent letter to his father, in which the views of a future life are ſpoken of with an affecting ſenſibility. On this circumſtance Dr. Currie has this juſt paragraph:—"This letter, written ſeveral years before the publication of his poems, when his name was as obſcure as his condition was humble, diſplays the philoſophic melancholy which ſo generally forms the poetical temperament, and that buoyant and ambitious ſpirit, which indicates a mind conſcious of its ſtrength. At Irvine, Burns, at this time, poſſeſſed a ſingle room for a lodging, rented, perhaps, at the rate of a ſhilling a week. He paſſed his days in conſtant labour, as a flax-dreſſer; and his food conſiſted chiefly of oatmeal, ſent to him from his father's family; the ſtore of this humble, though wholeſome nutriment, it appears was nearly exhauſted, and he was about to borrow till he ſhould obtain a ſupply. Yet even in this ſituation his active imagination had formed to itſelf pictures of eminence and diſtinction. His deſpair of making a figure in the world, ſhews how ardently he wiſhed for honourable fame, and his contempt of life, founded on this deſpair, is the genuine expreſſion of a youthful and generous mind. In ſuch a ſtate of reflection and of ſuffering, the imagination of Burns naturally paſſed the dark boundaries of our earthly horizon, and reſted on thoſe beautiful repreſentations of a better world, where there is neither thirſt, nor hunger, nor ſorrow, and where happineſs ſhall be in proportion to the capacity of happineſs."

In this letter Burns has theſe expreſſions:—"It is for this reaſon I am more pleaſed with the 15th, 16th, and 17th verſes of the ſeventh chapter of the Revelations, than with any ten times as many verſes in the whole Bible, and would not exchange the noble enthuſiaſm with which they inſpire me for all that this world has to offer." It is greatly to be regretted that our bard did not adhere to theſe ſentiments.

Robert now became a member of a little debating ſociety in the village of Tarbolton, which he had formed with care and attention. Here his powers were exerted, and no doubt improved. A few of their queſtions ſhall be tranſcribed—Whether do we derive more happineſs from love or friendſhip? Whether between friends who have no reaſon to doubt each other's friendſhip, there ſhould be any reſerve? Whether is the ſavage man or the peaſant of a civilized country in the moſt happy ſituation? Whether is a young man of the lower ranks of life likelieſt to be happy, who has got a good education, and his mind well informed, or he who has the education and information of thoſe around him?

It was during this period that Burns wrote moſt of his poems—in his own circle he was known for his poetical talents, and drew no ſmall admiration. He therefore reſolved to extend his fame by the publication of his poems—and they met with a favourable reception.

At this juncture, however, and fearing the horrors of a jail, he had determined to emigrate to Jamaica, and was on the point of embarkation, when a kind letter from Dr. Blacklock kept him in his native country. To Edinburgh he went towards the latter end of the year 1786—and was received there by ſome celebrated characters with marks of great attention.

A new and enlarged edition of his poems were now publiſhed, and dedicated to the Caledonian Hunt, an aſſociation of the principal nobility and gentry of Scotland. In his prefatory addreſs occurs the following animated paragraph:

"I congratulate my country that the blood of her ancient heroes runs uncontaminated; and that from your courage, knowledge, and public ſpirit, ſhe may expect protection, wealth, and liberty. May corruption ſhrink at your kindling indignant glance, and may tyranny in the ruler, and licentiouſneſs in the people, find in you an inexorable foe!"

The patronage which the poet received from this ſociety increaſed the profits of the ſale, and thus he was enabled to gratify himſelf in making a tour through the country.

(To be continued.)

Account

Account of the Iſland of Alamagan, one of the Northern Mariannes.

By Captain G. Bass.

IN the middle of 1799 I paſſed twenty-four hours upon Alamagan, one of the Ladrone or Marianne Iſlands, and have ſince read M. de la Pérouſe's uninviting deſcription of its barren neighbour Aſſumption.

Ships in want of refreſhments from the ſhore are ſometimes paſſing theſe iſlands on their way to China, but are perhaps unwilling to run down to leeward ſo far as Tinian, to obtain them; ſuch ſhips might find the productions of Alamagan worth twelve hours detention.

On the 27th of July, when the haze of the morning cleared away, we ſaw the iſland of Alamagan right a-head, bearing weſt by north, diſtant ſeven or eight leagues. The trade blew freſh at north-eaſt.

The ſky was very clear and bright, except that a lofty range of whitiſh clouds, packed into vaſt bodies, occupying one-fifth of the horizon, extended itſelf from over the iſland away to leeward of it as far as the eye could reach. Our ſurpriſe to find, upon approaching within three leagues of it, that this maſs of clouds was nothing more than ſmoke iſſuing from a volcano, became moderated by a previous knowledge of the volcanic nature of the Marianne Iſlands.

Our water was nearly expended, and we had yet a run of ſeveral days to China; it was determined, therefore, to attempt a landing, and try if Alamagan would afford us a freſh ſupply.

In rounding the north of the iſland, we paſſed the volcano. It ſtands cloſe to the ſea; a brown cone, in height perhaps five hundred yards, with a baſe of about four hundred; its apex is hidden by the vaſt body of thick ſmoak that is continually hurrying up within it, and by detached portions, that, having eſcaped from the violence of the main ſtream, are gently impelled by a counter-current to ſome diſtance down the ſides of the mount.

The ſides are ſtriated with the overflowings of black lava, which, having marked their progreſs though a rich vegetation of cocoa-nut trees, ſhew themſelves down upon the ſhore, where they have entered the ſea.

On the weſt or lee ſide of the iſland the ſhore bends into a kind of bay, where, as the trade blows in general ſteadily from the eaſtward, ſhips may ride in ſecurity for as many hours as they could want to ſtay. The bottom is, for the moſt part, a ſoft clay; but patches of rock ſo ſoft and rotten that they will break when a ſtrain is hove upon them, but yet ſufficiently hard to rub the cables, lie ſcattered about upon it. We anchored in twenty-four

four fathoms, with the volcano bearing north 55 eaſt; the north-weſt point of the bay north; the ſouth-weſt point ſouth 30 weſt; a quarter of a mile diſtant from a low rugged bluff. The bank deepens off ſuddenly.

Alamagan is high enough to be ſeen twelve or fourteen leagues. It is lower acroſs the middle than at either end. A ſet of angles that were taken gives its out-line ſome reſemblance to the figure of a billhook, and its circumference about twelve miles. Its ſhores are chiſly rocky to windward, but in the bay to leeward there are two or three beaches. On one of thoſe we landed, near the rugged bluff, without any difficulty; and it ſeems probable that landing will be found equally eaſy at all times, if the the trade has been blowing ſteadily or moderataly for ſome days; but if a ſhift of wind has lately happened, or, as we found it, if it is about to take place, the landing will then become dangerous and impracticable. Twenty-four hours after we anchored a ſwell began to roll into the bay, and the ſurf began to break heavy upon the ſhore; ſo we embarked in the evening, ran out to ſea, and early the next morning the wind came light at weſt, with a heavy ſwell from that quarter. On the following day it returned to north-eaſt.

We had not attained the object for which we touched at Alamagan; there was no water to be found. But we had got as many cocoa-nuts as could be ſhipped off in the time; a quantity that nearly filled up all the ſpare room in the brig. Every one can judge of the value of ſuch a ſupply to any ſickly ſhip's company that might paſs this way. They may be procured in any number, and, when the beach is fair, ſhipped in as ſhort a time as ſuch buſineſs is uſually done in any place; for the trees grew cloſe down even to to the very margin of the ſea.

Water might, no doubt, have been gotten by digging holes in the ground in ſuch places as are well known to be favourable for this purpoſe; for the gullies ſhew that it ſometimes runs in torrents.

The aſpect of the lower parts of Alamagan is peculiarly inviting, but the barren volcano occupies the north-weſt part; and the high ſouth and ſouth-weſt, though green, appear ſterile.

Were it not that ſome patches of clay appear here and there, and eſpecially upon that part which is the moſt diſtant from the volcano, one might ſuppoſe that the whole iſland had derived its origin from volcanic matters. Nothing ſeems for ſeveral years paſt to have been ejected from the volcano to a greater diſtance than about a mile and a half; for at that diſtance the terraces of cinders are covered with black vegetable ſoil that produces trees and other vegetation as large as any upon the iſland; and the nature of theſe elevations would not at once be readily diſcoverable, but that their ſides being too ſteep to allow any but a

ſmall quantity of ſoil to lodge there, parts of the lumps of cinders are left expoſed to view. Approaching nearer to the volcano we meet with ſeveral lumps of cinders, of three or four acres in extent, flat and level enough to be walked over, after having taken the pains to clamber up eight or ten feet to gain their top. On moſt of theſe there is not the ſmalleſt incipient vegetation. Nearer ſtill to the baſe of the ſmoking mount, it is extremely painful and difficult to paſs along, for the heaps of cinders become more rugged, and more perplexing to mount and deſcend. Here a hollow rumbling noiſe is heard occaſionally from within the mountain, as if ſome large body had fallen by leaps from a great height there; and I obſerved, as I each time involuntarily turned up my eyes towards its ſummit, that every grumbling produced a temporary increaſe of ſmoke, ſo that the crater ſeemed ſcarcely large enough to let it paſs through.

The ſtreams of liquid matter ſeem to have run over on that ſide of the crater next the ſea; none appearing on the land ſide.

I ſhall judge from the appearance of this volcano, that it is preparing itſelf for ſome new eruption; but it is probable that amidſt the ſolitude of the Mariannes this grand operation of nature will paſs on unſeen and unheeded by man.

The lower parts of the iſland are, for the moſt part, covered with trees of a dark luxuriant foliage: none ſeem to be more lofty than the talleſt of the cocoa-nuts. They in general grow ſo far aſunder that there is no difficulty in paſſing between them, and their cloſed foliage above perfectly excludes the rays of the ſun. The ground is a moiſt black ſoil, ſtrewed over with leaves and other decaying ſmall vegetation, ſoft and cooling to the foot in the heat of the day. Neither graſs nor underwood grow in theſe places.

Some few open ſpots, without trees or ſhrubs of any kind, produce a thick coat of long graſs; but the ſoil is hard and ſtoney. Other open places of a larger extent grow cloſe patches of a kind of ſmall ſugar-cane.

The moſt plentiful, as well as the beſt, production of the iſland is cocoa-nuts; they are in uncommon abundance, and grow in clumps chiefly near the ſhores cloſe down to the beaches. Trees ſomewhat reſembling the pines about Port Jackſon, in New Holland, are very numerous: they bear a ſmall cone, and grow tall and ſtraight to the height of thirty or forty feet.

A valuable ſupply of the fruit of the papau tree might be gathered about the middle of Auguſt. The flavour of thoſe we plucked in the latter end of July was extremely fine, and their ſize was large.

One bread-fruit-tree was met with, and a ſmall unripe fruit was taken from it; and alſo two ſmall banana-trees, whoſe fruit was ſmall and unripe.

There

There are ſeveral kinds of ſtone-fruits, whoſe taſte may probably be agreeable when they are ripe.

The mellôra or bread-tree of the Nicobar Iſlands is very common.

We ſaw no quadrupeds except green-tailed lizards. Land crabs run about in great numbers. They are very large, will weigh two or two pounds and half. They flocked round our fire at night, and ſpeedily afforded us a good ſupport.

Five years ago, the Rev. Mr. Howell, commander of the brig Waſhington, put a Sandwich-Iſland boar and two ſows on ſhore in the bay where we landed; but we could find no traces of them, unleſs we were deceived in what we took to be the ſcratchings of land crabs. If they have periſhed, it muſt have been for want of water.

Large partridges are numerous under the ſhades, and are eaſily ſhot. Quails were found in the open graſſy places. We ſaw alſo owls, thruſhes, bullfinches, pigeons, and heard delightful notes from a bird which we did not ſee.

There are few moſquitoes, or other troubleſome flies.

The latitude of Alamagan is 18° 05′ north, its longitude by lunars brought on 146° 47′ eaſt. The variation of the compaſs is 4½° eaſt. The tide riſes ſomewhere about from five to ſeven feet, but the time of its flowing at the full and change was not obſerved.

An ANECDOTE.

PETER the Great, after having brought the Swediſh war to a glorious concluſion, determined to avail himſelf of the troubles in Perſia, and to march againſt the Sophy. He diſcovered his deſign to none but the Empreſs, and his favourite, Menchicoff, with whom he was quite alone. "I have entruſted my ſecret" ſaid he, "to none but you, and forbid you to ſpeak of it to any one." Some days after, being alone with one of his dentcht chicks, and meditating on the means of executing his great deſign with ſucceſs, he aſked if there were any news: "None, Sire, except that we are going to march againſt the Perſians." "What," replied the Emperor, with ſurprize, "March againſt the Perſians! Tell me, immediately, from whom you had that falſity!"—"From the Empreſs's parrot, Sire; I heard it yeſterday, while I was in the anti-chamber, repeat ſeveral times, *Ei Perſi padiom;* we will march into Perſia." Peter ſent immediately for Prince Menchicoff to attend him to the apartment of the Empreſs, and told them both, that as the ſecret he had entruſted to them was divulged, he inſiſted on knowing to whom they had mentioned it. Catharine and Menchicoff

proteſted they had not opened their mouths on the ſubject. The Czar, convinced of their innocence, turned towards the parrot.

"Here," ſaid he, "is the traitor; it was one of my dentcht chicks who told me. In our converſation we frequently ſaid, we will march into Perſia, and the rogue has remembered and repeated it. You muſt remove him from your apartment," added he to the Empreſs, laughing, "for it is neceſſary that we ſhould be on our guard both againſt traitors and babblers."

WANTED, A CONVENIENT SICKNESS.

MR. PRINTER,

OBSERVING your polite attentions to the requeſts of our ſex, we are encouraged to aſk your advice, or that of ſome of your correſpondents, in a matter of great and ſerious importance, not only to us but perchance to a conſiderable proportion of our ſiſterhood.

We preſume, Sir, that you are not ignorant that the time is faſt approaching, when the metropolis becomes ſo unhealthy, that every inhabitant, who can afford it, is ſeized with ſome alarming complaint, which can be remedied only by a reſidence of two or three months at Brighton, Margate, or Ramſgate, or ſome other of the marine hoſpitals, and ſea-ſide diſpenſaries. Now Sir, be it known to you, that the ſeaſon before laſt, we contrived about the latter end of the preſent month, to form ſome very bad *coughs*, eſpecially in the morning, becauſe the doctors ſay that is the moſt alarming time: and I aſſure you, Sir, we managed matters ſo well, that it would have raiſed your pity to have ſeen and heard us tearing our precious lungs out in a chorus, to work upon the feelings of Papa, who at length conſented that we ſhould go to Margate; and I proteſt to you, Sir, that before we reached Blackheath, our coughs were conſiderably abated, and ſcarce a remnant left when we ſat down to dinner at Canterbury. Occaſional relapſes, however, were found expedient, eſpecially in the poſtſcript of our letters, in order to keep us at Margate for about three months, when the cold weather coming on, it was not worth while to be ill any longer.

Laſt year, as we did not wiſh to make our cough annual, we changed it for a *tightneſs about the cheſt*, and *loſs of appetite*, particularly when Papa was at the ſame table with us, and by the aſſiſtance of a friendly apothecary, we prevailed upon him to try what the air and bathing at Brighton would do. I need not tell you that the remedy was effectual, although gradual. Some manœuvring was neceſſary here, for as he kept a pretty cloſe eye upon us, we were obliged to preſerve our want of appetite with conſiderable care, by means of ſome private luncheons, and with ſome pains we provided ourſelves with a very alarming

ſhortneſs of breath during the full ſeaſon, after which our complaints went away with the genteel part of the company, and we were content to follow. There is no comfort at theſe places unleſs they be quite full, and every thing inconvenient; nor can any one ſleep quietly on beds that are as eaſy to be procured as at home.

But now, Sir, comes our difficulty, and here we earneſtly demand your advice, or that of your correſpondents, as to what complaint we ſhall *rear* this year. The time is at hand, and we muſt begin directly, that we may be ill enough for the prime part of the ſeaſon. It would be aukward, and perhaps a little ſuſpicious, to have another cough, and it was really very troubleſome, and uſed to make our faces red, which is very ſhocking. Want of appetite, too, is very diſagreeable to people in perfect health, and a tightneſs of the cheſt, though a very deſirable complaint otherwiſe, would oblige us to give up our muſic, for we are all fingers, and the new lady at the opera promiſes to keep us employed for ſome time in *excelling* her. Can any of your correſpondents ſuggeſt a clever complaint, ſomething pretty eaſy, that we can manage for an hour or ſo, when Papa is in one of his fond fits? I was looking into Buchan, but I can't find any thing but fevers, that would be detected in a moment, and gouts and dropſies, which would be abominably vulgar, and only fit for old *jograms*; I have ſome notion of a nervous diſorder. What think you of a decent tremulation, ſtarting wildly at the ſlamming of a door—letting fall one of our beſt china cups now and then—a few faintings, when there is no manner of occaſion—ſome ſevere head-achs, with an occaſional ſpaſm or two, juſt by way of interlude, and properly introduced. Theſe things I know are common, and I dare ſay have often been ſucceſsful in caſes like our's, but the misfortune is, none of us have ever tried them, and it would look very ſuſpicious, if we were all to be nervous at one time; and what is more, at preſent, upon looking into the glaſs, I really don't think they would tally with our complexions, which indicate not only perfect, but I am ſhocked to add, vulgar, robuſt health, and far better red and white than they ſell in the ſhops.

Do therefore, good Sir, print this, and let me ſee what your correſpondents will adviſe. Papa is gone from home for a month, and you may perceive how convenient it would be, if we could contrive to be almoſt *too far gone* before he returns.

I am, Sir,

For ſelf and ſiſters,

Your humble ſervant,

KITTY SLYBOOTS.

City-ſide of Temple Bar, May 18, 1801.

P. S. Mama is on our ſide, and contrives to *fall away* prodigiouſly, and there is not a maiden aunt in the family.

DESCRIPTION *of the* DANISH DOG.

THIS is the largeſt of dogs, and is of ſtronger make than the greyhound. Buffon mentions his having ſeen only one of theſe; that when ſitting, was about five feet high. Such perhaps were the dogs of Epirus, mentioned by Ariſtotle, and thoſe of Albania, the modern Schirwan, or Eaſt Georgia, ſo beautifully deſcribed by Pliny, of which the following is a tranſlation:

While Alexander the Great was on his march to India, the King of Albania ſent him one (viz. a dog) of unuſual bigneſs as a preſent. Delighted with his appearance, he ordered bears, then wild boars, and laſt of all, deer, to be turned out looſe before him. The dog, through contempt of ſuch game, lay ſtill without ſeeming to take the leaſt notice of them. That high ſpirited Prince, provoked at ſuch indolence in a creature of ſuch ſize, ordered him to be put to death. Fame carried the news to the King. Therefore ſending him a ſecond, he added this meſſage, that he ſhould not wiſh to try him on ſmall beaſts, but on a lion or an elephant; that he had only two; that if this were ſlain, he ſhould have none left. Alexander did not delay, and ſoon ſaw a lion quite overpowered. Then he ordered an elephant to be brought, and was never more entertained with any fight. Briſtling up all his hair over his whole body, he opened upon him with a bark like a peal of thunder. Inſtantly he begins the attack, riſing againſt the elephant, now on this ſide, now on that, with artful combat, attacking or retreating, as he ſaw it neceſſary, till, by continually wheeling round, he at laſt brought him to the ground, the earth being greatly ſhaken all around by his weighty fall.

ON EXTORTION.

By the late Hon. D. BARRINGTON.

THE eſtabliſhment of purveyors in England, and in every part of Europe, aroſe from the ſame cauſe—the want of regular and well ſupplied markets. Eadmerus informs us, that in the time of Henry the Firſt, the peaſants and farmers, when they heard of the King's approach, deſerted their houſes. Aſcham complains, in a letter to the then Chancellor, of a moſt wanton inſtance of oppreſſion in the King's purveyors of fiſh. The Preſident of Cheſter-Houſe, in Cambridge, had a favourite pad, which he uſed for the recovery of his health; no other horſe would ſatisfy the purveyor, though many were grazing in the ſame field.

Lady Mary Wortley Montague takes notice, that in Turkey, when the purveyors have rifled every thing from the houſe, they

then make the owner pay a ſecond tax for the detriment which the officers' teeth may have been ſuppoſed to have ſuffered by the eating of what they have before injuriouſly extorted; and this is called *tooth* money.

There is a very ſpirited ſpeech of Lord Bacon's againſt the abuſes of theſe officers, in which he mentions, that after the purveyor had agreed to give the price of the goods he wanted, he inſiſted on a deduction before he would pay the King's debts. Sir E. Coke in his 12th Rep. ſuppoſes purveyance ſo eſſential and inherent a prerogative in the King, that an Act of Parliament to take it away is void.

Subſtance of the moſt intereſting Parts of the Travels of C. F. Damberger, a German, through the interior Parts of Africa, from the Cape of Good Hope to Morocco, between the Years 1781 and 1797.

[Continued from Page 406.]

THE deſcription of Angola here given appears to be intereſting. It is as follows; "The kingdom of Angola is fourteen days journey in length from eaſt to weſt, and ten days journey from north to ſouth. The country is interſected by a number of rivulets; and the large river Bambo, which to the north divides it from the kingdom of Congo, waters and fertilizes with its numerous arms the adjoining tracts. Fruitful vallies and excellent paſture-grounds, which alternately ſucceed to mountains and naked rocks, ſeem to invite the hand of the cultivator, and promiſe a rich return for his labour: but the natives are too indolent to improve the advantages which nature has beſtowed. To the eaſt, Angola borders on the kingdom of Matamba; to the ſouth, on Bengula and Sova; and to the weſt, on the ſea.

"Angola produces ſaltpetre, ſilver, tin, and ivory, which the Portugueze endeavour to obtain from the natives, in exchange for European commmodities. They likewiſe purchaſe here a number of ſkins. The whole country abounds with various kinds of wild animals, whence the inhabitants derive the means of ſubſiſtence without much trouble, and therefore neglect the breeding of cattle. The elephant and rhinoceros are here, as it were, at home, whole herds of them being frequently ſeen.

"The kings of Angola were formerly dependent upon the kings of Congo: but the preſent ſovereign has freed himſelf from that ſtate of vaſſalage, and thereby gained the eſteem and affections of his ſubjects to ſuch a degree, that even women and children take up arms, whenever war is declared againſt him. His retinue of ſtate conſiſts of twenty mani's, fifty prieſts, and a body-guard of two hundred and fifty ſoldiers, armed with fire-

locks,

locks, which were taken from the Portugueze in 1763; and in the uſe of which they are very expert. The ſuperintendance of every town is committed to two mani's, and that of every village to one mani; but theſe inferior judges cannot give a final deciſion in any caſe, but muſt make a report thereof to the king. When I ſaw him, the king was about thirty-ſix years of age; his dreſs conſiſted of a pair of blue trowſers, and a ſcarlet cloak of very coarſe cloth. He is an enemy to the Portugueze, and conſequently to all Chriſtians, and therefore he reſtricted, by various means, the free trade which they formerly enjoyed with his ſubjects, and ſeems only to wait for a favourable opportunity to refuſe them admittance into his dominions. The military force conſiſts of thirty thouſand well-diſciplined foot ſoldiers; but as there are few horſes in the country, and the many wild beaſts prevent their increaſe, the king keeps no cavalry. Buffaloes are uſed to carry the heavy baggage of the army.

"The king uſually gives audience in the open air, ſurrounded by his body-guard; the officers ſtand behind him with drawn ſwords. Theſe he ſtyles fidolgos, (faithful attendants), and the guards mocarani, (moſt excellent ſoldiers), although they never take the field againſt an enemy. The prieſts, called evanga, are next in rank to the king; and next to them is the Tambocado, a kind of ſuperior judge, to whom the reports of caſes from the inferior judges or mani's are committed for re-examination: after which he, either himſelf, or through the medium of the prieſts, lays them before the king for his final deciſion.

"The inhabitants of Angola do not adore idols; but worſhip the ſun and moon. Every time the moon enters into a new quarter a day of reſt is celebrated, on which no one is allowed to go a hunting. Faſt days are uſually appointed when thunder-ſtorms ariſe; for they then ſay—"The great Lord is angry:" and on ſuch occaſions they abſtain from all food, and eſpecially when it thunders in the night, leave their huts, and proſtrate themſelves with their faces to the ground, till the ſtorm ceaſes. The harveſt-feaſt, which laſts three days, is celebrated with the utmoſt ſolemnity. Though they are heathens, yet circumciſion is practiſed among them as a religious rite; they have likewiſe huts appropriated to the celebration of divine worſhip, and aſſemble there on days appointed by the prieſts.

"Their domeſtic economy is very ſimple; and though nature has amply provided for them various kinds of animals and fruits, they are remarkably temperate in their diet. Agriculture is practiſed only in a few places, where they ſow a kind of millet, barley, and Indian corn; the gourds and water-melons produced here are excellent. Muſcles are reckoned a great dainty: ſo fond are ſome of the Angolans of that ſpecies of ſhell-fiſh, that they will travel for miles in ſearch of them.

"Marriage

" Marriage is ſolemnized with various ceremonies: the bride and bridegroom ſeat themſelves on the ground; the prieſt then bleſſes them with certain formulas which no one underſtands, and then walks round them with a ſtick in his hand, and drives away the evil ſpirits. After this the family kindles a fire, and the prieſt's ſtick is burnt to aſhes, which are mixed with milk, bleſſed by the prieſt, and ſwallowed by the bride and bridegroom. This they think promotes fecundity, and keeps off many evils. Polygamy is permitted and is very common; but divorces are not allowed by their laws; many of the women, however, are forced by ill uſage to leave their huſbands. The children are educated with great care, being inſtructed by the prieſt in reading, writing, and the laws and religion of their country. Inſtead of paper, they uſe ſkins covered with fat and ſoot; and a ſharp-pointed bone ſupplies the place of a pen. The prieſts uſually inſtruct their ſcholars in the open air: and I obſerved that the children were much more attentive here, than they generally are in the European ſchools. The boys all belong to the king, who cauſes them, when arrived at the proper age to be trained to the uſe of arms; and in return grants a certain remuneration to their fathers, as, for example, every one who furniſhes a full-grown ſon to the king, is maintained one year free of all expences. To enable the king to defray this heavy charge, a third part of the produce of the chace, of all cultivated fields, and of all ſpoil, which is obtained by any other means, belongs to him.

" As to their dreſs—ſome wear only aprons made of palm-leaves; others add to this, an aſh-grey cloak of coarſe cloth or linen, which they purchaſe from the Portugueze; and others wear on their back the ſkins of animals: Their hair is ſhort and curly: and they ornament it with muſcle-ſhells, or with beads, and other trinkets, which they obtain from the Portugueze. Their cheeks they paint blue or red. They never cut their nails; and therefore ſome of them, who wiſh to ſhine as peculiarly faſhionable, carefully preſerve the nails of their fingers from all accidents that might break them: and the nails of ſuch may almoſt be miſtaken for the claws of an eagle.

" Towards natives of Africa they are very hoſpitable, but will not give a night's lodging to a Chriſtian. Indeed it is with great reluctance that they permit Chriſtians to come into the country, and therefore they convey to the Portugueze, on the back of buffaloes, ſuch commodities as they wiſh to barter for European goods, and bring back what they receive in exchange. From the Portugueze factories at Soanda and Gambamba, deputies are ſent twice every year to Manpango, the reſidence of the king, to endeavour to pacify him in ſome meaſure; as he is greatly incenſed againſt them, for kidnapping ſo many of his ſubjects, and making ſlaves of them. Should the projected

alliance with the king of Mataman take place, it is not unlikely that the Portugueze would ſtill meet with the ſame fate that befell them in Japan.

"On the 16th I informed the mani that I wiſhed to purſue my journey; but he told me, that I muſt not depart till I had obtained permiſſion from the king to travel through his dominions. On my peremptorily declaring that I would not turn back, and that I was under the neceſſity of paſſing through this country, he ordered four men to eſcort me to the reſidence-town, that the king himſelf might have an opportunity of ſeeing me.

(To be continued.)

THE FRAGMENT.

I Have loſt my lamb, ſaid the farmer, as he ſat weeping on the bank—and it was all thou hadſt?—Alas, ſays he, my flocks bleat on yonder plain—but I ſhall lead them no more to the uplands in the winter, or drive them to the vale in ſummer—they will ſee their maſter no more—another's voice muſt call them to their paſtures, and another's hand muſt fold them in the evening, for I have loſt my lamb, and my ſtrength fails me.

Gentle ſtranger, if I breathe my laſt in your preſence, ſuffer not the raven to prey on my cold remains, but let the turf cover me—and may Heaven in its mercy, ſhield the heart of my poor devoted child from knowing that her misfortune and diſgrace have broken the heart of her father.—It is then a daughter thou haſt loſt; it is a darling child whom thou ſeekeſt?—Alas!—indeed ſaid the farmer, the flower of the valley was not ſo fair, nor the honeyſuckle ſo ſweet, nor the dove more innocent than Mary—nor, continued he, raiſing his voice—the wolf more ſavage than the monſter who bore her away from me. But he is rich—theſe plains call him maſter—and I have only tears to conſole me. My ſon fell in the front of the battle, nobly fighting for his country, or the ſpoiler of innocence ſhould have felt the vigour of his arm; he ſhould have revenged a ſiſter's wrongs—but I am weak, my voice is weak, but it will aſcend to Heaven; to the eternal juſtice of the Deity I commit my cauſe; and if theſe ſhould be my laſt words—and they were indeed, for his venerable form ſunk in death, and I called on the villagers to bear his corpſe to the cottage.—

REFLECTIONS,

By the late ROBERT BURNS.

STILL there are two great pillars that bear us up amid the wreck of misfortune and miſery. The one is compoſed of the

the different modifications of a certain noble ſtubborn ſomething in man, known by the names of courage, fortitude, magnanimity. The other is made up of theſe feelings and ſentiments which, however the ſceptic may deny them, or the enthuſiaſt diſfigure them, are yet, I am convinced, original and component parts of the human ſoul, thoſe ſenſes of the mind, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, which connect us with, and link us to thoſe awful obſcure realities, an all-powerful and equally beneficent God, and a world to come beyond death and the grave! The firſt gives the nerve of combat while a ray of hope beams on the field—the laſt pours the balm of comfort into the wound which time can never cure.

———" Tell us, ye dead,
" Will none of you in pity diſcloſe the ſecret,
" What 'tis you are, and we muſt ſhortly be?"

A thouſand times have I made this apoſtrophe to the departed ſons of men, but not one of them has ever thought fit to anſwer the queſtion. " O that ſome courteous ghoſt would blab it out!" but it cannot be; you and I, my friend, muſt make the experiment by ourſelves and for ourſelves. However, I am ſo convinced that an unſhaken faith in the doctrines of religion is not only neceſſary, by making us better men, but alſo by making us happier men, that I ſhall take every care that your little god-ſon, and every little creature that ſhall call me father, ſhall be taught them. So ends this heterogenous letter, written at this wild place of the world, (Annan Water Foot, Aug. 22, 1792,) in the intervals of my labour of diſcharging a veſſel of rum from Antigua.

This world of our's, notwithſtanding it has many things in it, yet it has ever had this curſe, that two or three people who would be the happier the oftener they met together, are almoſt, without exception, always ſo placed as never to meet but once or twice a year, which, conſidering the few years of a man's life, is a very great evil under the ſun, which I do not recollect that Solomon has mentioned in his catalogue of the miſeries of man. I hope, and believe, that there is a ſtate of exiſtence beyond the grave, where the worthy of this life will renew their former intimacies, with this endearing addition, that we meet to part no more!

Alas, Madam! who would wiſh for many years! What is it but to drag exiſtence until our joys gradually expire and leave us in a night of miſery—like the gloom, which blots out the ſtars one by one from the face of night, and leaves us without a ray of comfort in the howling waſte!

AN ANECDOTE.

THE brave Sir Ralph Abercromby, whoſe loſs we all ſo juſtly deplore, after having his horſe ſhot from under him, was attacked by a young French dragoon, who was alſo diſmounted, ſword in hand, whom, however, he completely ſubdued and diſarmed. Another Frenchman at this inſtant came up to the aſſiſtance of the young man, and would haveput Sir Ralph to death, but for a ſoldier of the 42d regiment, who run the aſſailant through the body. Sir Ralph then mounted another horſe, and ſhortly after received a ſhot in the thick part of the thigh. He continued, however, to ride about during the remainder of the action, which continued upwards of two hours from that time. His Aid-de-Camp ſaid to him, "Sir, I am afraid you are touched." "Oh, no," replied the gallant veteran, "nothing but a mere ſcratch." A length he prevailed upon him to diſmount, when he found his leg ſo ſtiff that he could hardly get it off the horſe. The heroic chief was then put into a blanket, and carried down to the Lake, where he was put into a boat, and conveyed on board the Foudroyant.

Our readers will find in laſt week's Entertainer General Hutchinſon's elegant token of reſpect to the memory of this revered and much lamented officer.

Anſwer, by James Chivers, of St. Auſtle, to T. Warring's Queſtion, inſerted February 16.

LET a and b expreſs the ſpecific gravities of the ingredients, c = the weight of the compound = 100lb. d = its ſpecific gravity = 7842; then if z expreſſes the weight of the ingredient whoſe ſpecific gravity is a, c—z will be that whoſe ſpecific gravity is b; and $\frac{z}{a}$, $\frac{c-z}{b}$ will be the weights loſt in the fluid, and $\frac{c}{d}$ that of the mixture, which muſt be equal to the ſum of the former. Hence $\frac{z}{a}+\frac{c-z}{b}=\frac{c}{d}$; and therefore $z=\frac{ac}{d}\times\frac{b-d}{b-a}$, a general theorem for z. Hence it appears that there 64,3+lb. of tin in the mixture, and 35,7+lb. of copper very nearly.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from P. Ninnis, of St. Auſtell; and J. Ninnis, of St. Agnes.

Anſwer, by W. England, of Lyme, to G. England's Enigma, inſerted March 16.

FELL SUPERSTITION's your enigma's theme,
If of your meaning now I rightly deem.

☞ Similar anſwers have been received from P. Ninnis, of St. Auſtell; and J. Ninnis, of St. Agnes.

Anſwer, by J. Squance, of Exeter, to E. Moon's Charade, inſerted March 23.

THE parts combin'd I ſay to you,
FORTNIGHT's the time 'twill bring to view.

‡‡‡ We have received the like anſwer from W. Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton; Serjeant Aſh, of the Exminſter Volunteers; John Smith, L. H. and T. Whicker, of Exeter; Philom. of Teignmouth; W. England, of Lyme; P. Sellick, jun. and T. Webber, jun. of Tiverton; and George Coulman, of Broadhempſton.

A CHARADE, *by W. Harris, Jun. of Exeter.*

MY firſt is a term that's us'd to expreſs
An evaſion, impoſture, or cheat;
My next may be ſeen any where on the coaſt,
And o'er it the rough ſurges beat.
My whole you will find in the arms of the nation,
Hath lately obtain'd a conſpicuous ſtation.

A REBUS, *by L. H. of Exeter.*

WHEN man for riches doth contend,
And bend his vent'rous way,
Oft to my firſt his courſe deſcends,
Hid from the light of day.
There finds a ſubſtance of much worth,
When purified by fire;
Congenial to its mother earth,
And yields to his deſire.
Now to this treaſure add a part
Of man, bird, beaſt, or reptile;
The ſeat of wiſdom, not the heart
Of Chriſtian, Jew, or Gentile.
The two when join'd will indicate
A place, O gentle ſtranger!
Where many go, ſtrange to relate,
For pleaſure, ſeeking danger.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

An Invocation to Peace: Occaſioned by a faint Gleam or Probability of its Return with the Return of Spring.

O! Let me, with the genial ſpring,
Invoke thee, peace! with healing wing:
While hills and vallies gaily ſmile,
Return, and bleſs this favour'd iſle.
Come, thy accuſtom'd pleaſures ſhed,
Which long from Europe's fields have fled.
Then may we hope, the fruitful plain,
(No longer reeking with the ſlain)
Once more ſhall glad the peaſant's eye,
And plenty for our wants ſupply.
Again the renovating year
With joy our drooping hearts ſhall cheer:
Again ſhall notes of muſic ſound,
And mirth within our vales be found.
Ah! long, too long, the god of war,
With haggard looks, and blood-ſtain'd car,
Has ſcourg'd the nations in his ire,
Spreading diſeaſe, and want, and fire:
Has rioted on human gore,
And thunder'd death from every ſhore:
E'en now, creation whiſpers peace,
With mortals too let diſcord ceaſe;
And, the black age of tumult paſt,
Come univerſal peace at laſt!
'Tis promis'd by that God above,
Whoſe name, whoſe nature, all is love;
The day, the happy day ſhall be,
When men ſhall live in harmony;
That lions with the lamb ſhall range,
And ſwords to hooks and plough-ſhares change:
When ſocial bliſs o'er all ſhall reign,
And friendſhip be the only chain.
Many ſuppoſe this ſeaſon near,
O would Miſlenium ſoon appear!
But let me check the pleaſing thought,
The world is yet with rancour fraught:
And rather let me paſs my time
Like one who ſeeks a happier clime;
Leaſt diſappintment clouds the way,
Which leads to univerſal day!

R. H.

Plymouth, April 27, 1801.

EPITAPH, *on a* BELOVED WIFE.

AS ſhe was once, few of her ſex you'll ſee;
As ſhe is now, the faireſt maid ſhall be;

She

She liv'd to die; who, dying, yet ſhall live,
While honour, wit, or gratitude ſurvive.
Her eyes on every eye diffus'd delight,
And nothing but her goodneſs ſhone more bright;
Beauty to virtue ſmil'd a ſoft'ning grace,
And virtue gave new beauty to her face.
She prais'd all worth, unconſcious of her own,
And thought with ſo much merit ſhe had none.
Her uſe of books th' intent of reading ſhow'd,
Beyond the cloſet practically good.
Her life for living was the juſteſt plan,
She charm'd as woman, and ſhe thought as man.

Fair reader learn! perfection is deny'd
To the moſt fair! for lo! Emilia dy'd.

ODE *on our late* NAVAL ACHIEVEMENT *at* COPENHAGEN.

GENIUS of Albion, ſtill 'tis thine
To wield the ſceptre of the main;
Ev'n tho' the embattled world combine
To wreſt it, the attempt proves vain.
Firm as an adamantine rock,
Thy naval proweſs meets the ſhock,
And hurls, indignant, the recoiling blow,
Aim'd at thy envied head, on the confounded foe.

Thy valiant tars no dangers dread;
Still prompt to fly where glory calls,
The canvas wing they proudly ſpread,
That wafts along thy wooden walls:
Nor caſtled ſtreight, nor buoyleſs ſhoal,
Their dauntleſs ardour can controul;
Nor thund'ring batt'ries, whoſe tremendous roar
Ev'n ſhakes the ſolid frame of the reſounding ſhore.

O'er the wide ſurface of the globe,
Under each pole, beneath each zone,
To realms of ev'ry hue and robe,
Thy maritime renown is known.
The trembling eaſt, the humbled weſt,
Have oft thy matchleſs might confeſs'd;
And ſoon the truant north again ſhall melt
To mildneſs, ſince her ſons have Nelſon's vengeance felt.

Yet ſtill the ſoul of pity ſhrinks
When the dread ſtroke ev'n juſtice deals;
Upon the widow's woes ſhe thinks—
On all the hapleſs orphan feels.
Amid the triumphs of the brave
Death's ſable flag is ſeen to wave;
And dire misfortune mingles her alloy,
To damp, in many a heart, the cauſe of general joy!

EPIGRAM.

SAYS Dick to Moſes (with a laugh)
"Your anceſtors ador'd a calf!"
"True," quoth the Jew; "but then we're told,
"That calf was made of *ſolid gold*;
"And thro' the world, friend Dick, you'll find,
"*Gold* is the *idol* of mankind."